## LISA MURKOWSKI ALASKA

COMMITTEES:

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
RANKING MEMBER

APPROPRIATIONS

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

INDIAN AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0203 (202) 224-6665 (202) 224-5301 FAX

July 6, 2009

510 L STREET, SUITE 550 ANCHORAGE, AK 99501–1956 (907) 271–3735

101 12TH AVENUE, ROOM 216 FAIRBANKS, AK 99701–6278 (907) 456–0233

4079 Tongass Avenue, Suite 204 Ketchikan, AK 99901-5526 (907) 225-6880

851 EAST WESTPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 307 WASILLA, AK 99654-7142 (907) 376-7665

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye Chairman Committee on Appropriations United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran Vice Chairman Committee on Appropriations United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

## Dear Senators:

I am writing to ask that you include the following reprogramming requests in the FY10 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies funding bill that is currently being developed.

**Project:** Alaska Railroad Grade Crossings **Recipient:** Alaska Railroad Corporation

**Requested Language:** "Sec. \_\_\_\_\_. The \$2,000,000 appropriated for surface transportation projects under Public Law 108-199, Division F, Title I, Section 115, under the heading Federal Highway Administration, and designated in the Statement of Managers for 'C Street Railroad Bypass, Alaska,' may be used by the Alaska Railroad for highway-grade crossings."

Agency/Account: FHWA

**Purpose:** The funds provided in the original C Street Bypass earmark are insufficient to complete the project. The project for which funds are requested to be reprogrammed would eliminate grade crossings in Fairbanks, Alaska.

**Project:** Alaska Railroad Advanced Traveler Grade Crossing Information Technology **Recipient:** Alaska Railroad Corporation

**Requested Language:** "Sec. \_\_\_\_. The unexpended balance of the \$1,000,000 appropriated for surface transportation projects under Public Law 108-447, Division H, Title I, under the heading Federal Railroad Administration, Next Generation High Speed Rail, and designated in

the Statement of Managers for 'Alaska RR luminescent grade crossings', is reprogrammed to be used by the Alaska Railroad to implement advanced traveler grade crossing information technology."

Agency/Account: FRA

**Purpose:** The original "luminescent" project could not be completed after independent lab testing found that the material was unsuitable for use in Alaskan operating and climatic conditions. The Alaska Railroad Corporation will use the remainder of FY 2005 Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) grant funds to enhance rail equipment and crossing appurtenances at highway / railroad crossing points using an alternative, existing and proven technology that will achieve the same purpose. ARRC project will focus on the traveler advance warning reader board technology that can display traffic control messages based on track motion sensors deployed at key highway-rail grade crossings.

Project: Juneau Bridge Improvements

Recipient: City and Borough of Juneau, AK

**Requested Language:** "Sec. \_\_\_\_\_. Of the \$1,000,000 appropriated under the heading 'General Provisions' in Public Law 108-7 for Juneau Heliport, Alaska, the unobligated share shall be available until expended to make safety upgrades to bridges owned by the City & Borough of Juneau, AK."

Agency/Account: FHWA

**Purpose:** The original heliport project cannot be constructed as envisioned due to insufficient funds. The funding provided for the heliport under Public Law 108-7, Title III, General Provisions, Section 330 is available until expended. This language would allow those funds to be reprogrammed to make safety upgrades to bridges owned by City & Borough of Juneau, AK.

**Project:** Anchorage General Transit Needs

Recipient: City of Anchorage, AK

Requested Language: "Sec. \_\_\_\_\_. (1) Section 3044(a) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (P.L. 109-59) is amended in item 422 by striking the project description 'C Street Expanded bus facility and intermodal parking garage, Anchorage, AK' and inserting 'Anchorage People Mover transit needs, Anchorage, AK.' (2) Amounts made available in fiscal years 2006 and 2007 shall be available for obligation until September 30, 2010."

Agency/Account: FTA

**Purpose:** The original project cannot be built because the city could not reach an agreement with the General Services Administration on a land exchange necessary for the project to move forward. The reprogrammed funds would be used to replace Anchorage's remaining fleet of eleven 40-foot buses that will reach the end of their useful life in 2010. Additionally, Anchorage needs to replace 5 thirty-foot buses that are under-sized for the system and will be transferred to a rural transit system within the Anchorage commute area. This funding will replace 16 buses and will complete the need. Replacement buses have been funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program. This project has been included in the STIP.

Consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I certify that to the best of my knowledge neither I nor my immediate family has a

pecuniary interest in this request. I further certify that I have posted a copy of this letter on my official website.

Thank you for your attention to matter and consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Lisa Murkowski

United States Senator

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